

I support SBC Pacific Bell's entry into long distance and encourage the FCC to approve their application.

Senior Citizens use long distance to stay connected with their families. Many of these seniors are on fixed incomes and will reap the benefits of lower prices from increased competition. SBC's ability to offer long distance service will give Senior Citizens more choices, better service, savings, and convenience.

SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market comes at a time when the nation's telecommunications industry is in significant turmoil. Competition in the industry is now the norm, and it is necessary for regulators to apply fair and balanced rules to all providers in order to ensure that competition is based upon investments, technology, and sound business practices. An open and competitive telecommunications market will benefit every Californian.

Senior Community Centers has had a long-term relationship with SBC Pacific Bell - the company is a solid corporate citizen; it makes positive contributions to the state and our local economic efforts, and its employees are involved in the communities in which they live and work.

Please approve SBC's application so that Senior Citizens and all Californians will enjoy the benefits of a truly open market.